

## Message Text

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43

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 OIC-02 FEA-01

ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAL-01 /151 W

----- 078462

R 061424Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2461

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 1155

DEPT FOR OES/OFA PASS COMMERCE: WALLACE/NOAA AND BLONDIN/NMFS

FROM RFA/EUROPE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF ICES HERRING

ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

1. THE FOLLOWING IS SUBJECT SUMMARY OF ALL PROPOSALS  
PREPARED FOR ICES LIAISON COMMITTEE AND FOR  
SUBSEQUENT PRESENTATION TO NEAFC, LONDON MEETING,  
APRIL 21-24, 1976.

2. THE NEW DATA AVAILABLE FOR NORTH SEA HERRING SUGGEST  
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THAT THERE WILL BE SOME INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE ADULT

STOCK IN 1976, DUE TO THE RECRUITMENT IN THAT YEAR OF THE 1973 YEAR CLASS. HOWEVER, THE SPAWNING STOCK IN 1976 WILL STILL BE AT A VERY LOW LEVEL OF ABOUT 1/10 OF THAT IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR YEARS. THERE IS NOW SOME EVIDENCE THAT, AT A SPAWNING STOCK BIOMASS BELOW 800,000 TONS, RECRUITMENT BECOMES DEPENDENT ON SPAWNING STOCK BIOMASS FOR THIS POPULATION, IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT FRIM ACTION BE TAKEN TO REBUILD THE STOCK TO THIS LEVEL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS POSITION IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT DIRECTED FISHERIES ON NORTH SEA HERRING SHOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM 1 JULY 1976, AND EVERY ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO FURTHER RESTRICT THE BY-CATCHES OF HERRING IN THE MIXED FISHERIES, UNTIL THE SPAWNING STOCK RECOVERS TO 800,000 TONS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WITH ANY PRECISION HOW LONG THIS WILL TAKE, BUT WITH THE BEST ASSUMPTIONS WHICH CAN BE MADE, THIS MAY NOT BE ACHIEVED BEFORE 1980 WITH THE PRESENT EXPLOITATION RATE IN THE MIXED FISHERIES OR BEFORE 1979 IF SOME FURHTER RESTRICTIONS ARE INTRODUCED ON THESE.

4. THE RAPID DECLINE IN THE CELTIC SEA HERRING STOCK HAS CONTINUED. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IF THE AGREED 1976/77 TAC IS TAKEN IN FULL, THE ADULT STOCK BIOMASS AT THE END OF THE SEASON WILL BE BELOW 10 PERCENT OF THE LEVEL UNDER CONDITIONS OF LIGHT EXPLOITATION, IT IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO REBUILD THIS ADULT STOCK TO A LEVEL OF 40,000 TONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

5. IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FISHERY ON THIS STOCK IN 1977/78 AND THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO CLOSING THE FISHERY WITHIN IRISH FISHING JURISDICTION, ON THE SPAWING GROUNDS IN DECEMBER - JANUARY 1976/77. IF THESE MEASURES ARE IMPLEMENTED AND RECRUITMENT IS NOT BELOW AVERAGE, SOME FISHING MIGHT BE PERMISSIBLE IN 1979/80.

6. THE STATE OF HERRING STOCK IN DIVISION VIA IS NOT AS SERIOUS AS IN THE STOCKS MENTIONED ABOVE. IF THE AGREED TAC FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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1976 IS TAKEN IN FULL, THE REMAINING STOCK BIOMASS WILL BE ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL IN 1977 AS IN 1975 AND 1976. THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF RECRUITMENT OF A 1973 YEAR CLASS CONSIDERABLY ABOVE THE MODAL VALUE USED IN FORECASTING RECRUITMENT WHEN NO INDICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THE STOCK BIOMASS IN THIS POPULATION BEING AT THE LEVEL WHERE RECUITMENT WILL BE AFFECTED. THE 1977 TAC RECOMMENDED FOR THIS STOCK IS 83,000 TONS.

7. AN ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN MADE OF THE HERRING STOCK IN DIVISION VIIA. IN THIS AREA THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE TWO DISTINCT SPAWNING STOCKS - ONE IN THE AREA AROUND THE ISLE OF MAN AND ONE IN THE MOURNE AREA. HOWEVER, THERE IS PROBABLY SOME MIXING OF THEM DURING PART OF THE YEAR, AND FOR PRACTICAL REASONS IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO TREAT THEM AS A SINGLE MANAGEMENT UNIT. THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF A RAPID INCREASE IN EXPLOITATION OF THESE STOCKS IN RECENT YEARS WHICH HAS BEEN PARTIALLY CONTROLLED BY UNILATERAL REGULATORY ACTION BY THE UNITED KINGDOM. INTERNATIONAL CONTROL NOW APPEARS HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT A TAC OF 13,000 TONS BE BROUGHT IN FORCE IN 1977.

8. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE FISHERY IN THE NORTHERN PART OF DIVISION VIIA OF JUVENILE HERRING USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT IN DIVISION VIIA A MINIMUM LANDING SIZE FOR HERRING OF 20 CM BE INTRODUCED, IN CONFORMITY WITH THAT CURRENTLY IN FORCE IN DIVISION VIA.

9. ADVANCES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE ASSESSMENT OF NORTH SEA SPRAT WHICH HAVE PERMITTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF A TAC FOR THIS SPECIES, IN THAT AREA, ON A FIRMER BASIS. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT IN 1977 THE TAC FOR NORTH SEA SPRAT, EXCLUDING THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS, SHOULD BE SET AT A LEVEL NOT HIGHER THAN 400,000 TONS.

10. FEW DATA ARE AVAILABLE TO PERMIT THE CALCULATION OF A PERMISSIBLE CATCH LEVEL FOR THE SPRAT STOCK IN DIVISION IIIA AND IN THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS. HOWEVER, CATCHES IN THIS AREA HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY VERY RAPIDLY IN RECENT YEARS AND THIS CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE  
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AS A RESULT OF MORE STRINGENT RESTRICTIONS ON BOTH SPRAT AND HERRING FISHING IN THE NORTH SEA. IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT IN THESE AREAS THE CATCH OF SPRAT IN 1977 SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO EXCEED THE CATCH LEVEL IN 1975. THIS WOULD ENTAIL A TAC OF 100,000 TONS.

11. COMMENT. THE COMPLETE BAN ON HERRING FISHING IN THE NORTH SEA WAS PROPOSED INITIALLY AT LAST NOVEMBER'S NEAFC MEETING. OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL AT THE TIME WAS LED BY DANISH DELEGATION WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL IN MAINTAINING A DIRECTED HERRING FISHERY ALTHOUGH ONLY A SIX MONTH QUOTA (JAN-JUNE) OF 65,000 TAC WAS ADOPTED. RFA HAS HEARD UNOFFICIALLY THAT DENMARK WILL AGAIN OPPOSE A COMPLETE BAN AT THE UPCOMING MEETING AND WILL PROBABLY SETTLE FOR ABOUT THE SAME TAC AS WAS AGREED ON

FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS. THE PRESENT 15 PERCENT BY-CATCH OF  
HERRING WILL PROBABLY ALSO CONTINUE. PRIVATELY, THE  
DANES ADMIT THE 15 PERCENT LIMIT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ENFORCE AND  
JUST THE DANISH HERRING BY-CATCH IN THE NORTH SEA IS  
EXPECTED TO EXCEED THE ENTIRE TAC FOR THE DIRECTED  
FISHERIES.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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